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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, You are our King. The Earth celebrates Your majesty. Send peace today to Capitol Hill so that we will stay calm in life's turbulence and live worthy of Your goodness.

As Your presence is felt by our lawmakers today, unite them so that they will be a force for good in our Nation and the world. May the thoughts they think and the words they speak be acceptable to You. Lord, fill them with Your wisdom so that their lives will be like trees planted by rivers of water that bring forth abundant fruit.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 7, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHATZ thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Senate will be in morning business until 11 a.m. with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

Following morning business the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of David Medine to be Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. At noon there will be a vote on confirmation of the Medine nomination.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings. At 2:15 p.m. the Senate will begin consideration of S. 601, the Water Resources Development Act.

### WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this afternoon, as I have just indicated, the Senate will work on the bipartisan Water Resources Development Act, which would provide critical flood protection and other improvements to communities across the country. This legislation has two able managers in Chairman BOXER and Ranking Member VITTER.

Senator BOXER and Senator VITTER each represent their caucuses extremely well. I have given them free rein to complete this bill, and I hope that can be done. This measure that we will start this afternoon will create jobs and protect the economy by promoting investments in the Nation's

critical water infrastructure. It includes permanent reforms to the Corps of Engineers project approval process, which will accelerate job-creating projects.

I thank Senators BOXER and VITTER for their diligent work on this important issue and look forward to their moving this bill through the Senate at the earliest possible time.

### THE BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am sure my colleagues are familiar with the old adage: Be careful what you wish for; you just might get it.

For 2 years my Republican colleagues have said they wish for a return to regular order. They asked for amendments, and they got amendments. They asked for consideration of bills out of committees, and they have gotten that. They asked and then asked again for the Senate to pass a budget resolution, even though we already had a budget law signed by President Obama. Well, they got what they wished; the dog finally caught the car. But it turns out Republicans were more interested in demagoguery by calling for regular order than actually operating under regular order.

Although the Senate passed a budget resolution under regular order after scores of amendments, scores of votes, the Republicans now refuse to allow us to go to conference with our colleagues in the House of Representatives. This is a new concept.

For centuries we have had regular order where if the House passes a bill and the Senate passes a bill, if they are different, we sit down, talk and work out the differences. Not with this tea party-driven House and Senate. No, they talk about regular order, they talk a good game, but when it comes to regular order they don't want it. They shy away from it. They say: No, we don't want regular order. We don't want something that has been done in this country for centuries.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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